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Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan

The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 31 May 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the Taliban edict on Hindus issued on 30 May 2001 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 20 (d) and 46, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Per **Norström**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Permanent Representative
of Sweden to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 31 May 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement on the Taliban edict on Hindus issued on 30 May 2001 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union was deeply concerned to receive information about the edict of the Taliban leader, Mullah Omar, ordering all Hindus in Afghanistan to wear identity marks.

The European Union notes that the Taliban claim to be seeking to identify Hindus to prevent their being harassed "by mistake". The European Union recalls that the Taliban have to respect and protect the human rights of all persons belonging to the ethnic and religious minorities in Afghanistan. Forcing persons belonging to ethnic and religious minorities to wear distinctive clothing or identity marks is a form of discrimination which is prohibited by international human rights law. The European Union urges the Taliban leadership not to implement this unacceptable decision which will violate the human rights of Hindus in Afghanistan.

Moreover, the Taliban leadership is called upon to respect the human rights of all persons, without distinction.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries of Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the European Free Trade Association countries members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.